



United States Mission to the OSCE

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
January 27, 2011

Today, on January 27, the United States joins others in commemorating the liberation of the largest Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau sixty-six years ago. By remembering the horrid suffering and murder of innocent Jews and members of many other minorities, including Roma and Sinti, we pay tribute to the millions of victims. Remembering is a safeguard for the future.

But we must also recall the origins that led to the Holocaust and must remain vigilant to recognize early warning signs today. We must reject hatred, prejudice, intolerance and discrimination wherever it occurs and whoever it is aimed against. The United States continues to fully support the efforts of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to promote Holocaust Remembrance and tolerance education. On this International Day of Commemoration let us pledge to put even greater efforts into preventing genocide and crimes against humanity, so they can never happen again.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.